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O 051229Z MAY 09  
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2771  
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE  
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 5163  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2907  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2772  
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 3407  
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RHMFISS/CDR USTRANSCOM SCOTT AFB IL  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 3526

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASHGABAT 000570

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/05/2019

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: FM MEREDOV PROPOSES A TRIP TO  
WASHINGTON

REF: ASHGABAT 0556

Classified By: Charge Richard Miles for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) After years of trying to get Deputy Chairman and Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov to travel to Washington on his own, he has finally decided to do it. On May 4, he called in the Charge to say it was time for the two countries to meet at the level of Foreign Minister. He said that the level of contact between the two countries is good and noted the recent visits of Assistant Secretary Boucher and Deputy Assistant Secretary Krol as well as the upcoming visit of Special Envoy Richard Morningstar. Nevertheless, the bilateral dialogue should be advanced to the next level. Therefore, Meredov said, he is ready to go to Washington. He said he was prepared to travel sometime between June 20 and June 25. Meredov said during the visit he could discuss the possibility of a visit by President Berdimuhamedov to Washington. In addition, he noted there are a wide-range of issues that could be discussed, including bilateral cooperation, economic cooperation, energy, scientific, and political dialogues, as well as Afghanistan and Pakistan.

12. (C) Meredov asked if there was still a problem regarding overflight. After the continuing problem was explained, Meredov said he had spoken to the relevant officials dealing with Turkmen State Civil Aviation (THY). Charge said that THY had said that MFA could sign a document and nullify the bill. He added that the United States also remains ready to give equipment. Meredov promised to talk again with the relevant officials.

13. (C) Charge said he would relay the proposed trip dates to Washington. He said it would be good to clear the decks of any outstanding bilateral issues/problems prior to the trip.

14. (C) COMMENT: It appears that Meredov has decided to go to Washington because Berdimuhamedov is really committed to going to Washington (preferably this year), and the Turkmen are convinced that a Meredov trip is the swiftest way to advance this goal. The promise of a Berdimuhamedov trip, if it is possible, would provide an excellent incentive to resolve a number of issues. END COMMENT.

MILES